

## **Leading Causes of Death Among San Diego County Residents, 2003**

Tables include the top 15 leading causes of death among residents in San Diego County, grouped by total residents, sex, race/ethnicity, and region.

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Number and Percent of Deaths Among Residents of San Diego County HHSA Regions

Source: California Department of Health Services, Death Statistical Master Files; SANDAG January 1 population estimates

*Prepared by Community Epidemiology, Health & Human Services Agency, County of San Diego*

Table 1

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY, LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG RESIDENTS BY YEAR (2001-2003)**

Rank, Number and Percent of Deaths and Age-adjusted Rates

RANK in 2003	RANK in 2002	CAUSE OF DEATH *	NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DEATHS						2001-2003		AGE-ADJUSTED RATES		
			2001		2002		2003		2001-2003		2001	2002	2003
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%			
1	1	Diseases of heart	5,516	27.8	5,275	27.3	5,367	27.0	16,158	27.3	217.7	201.9	198.8
2	2	Cancer (any)	4,666	23.5	4,584	23.7	4,715	23.7	13,965	23.6	183.3	175.7	176.4
3	3	Cerebrovascular diseases	1,616	8.1	1,459	7.5	1,521	7.7	4,596	7.8	63.8	55.7	56.3
4	4	COPD/Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1,194	6.0	1,006	5.2	1,067	5.4	3,267	5.5	47.0	38.6	39.8
5	5	Alzheimer's disease	779	3.9	909	4.7	1,004	5.1	2,692	4.6	30.8	34.6	36.9
6	6	Unintentional injuries	717	3.6	790	4.1	807	4.1	2,314	3.9	25.4	27.6	27.7
7	7	Influenza & pneumonia	701	3.5	585	3.0	579	2.9	1,865	3.2	27.7	22.3	21.3
8	8	Diabetes mellitus	491	2.5	475	2.5	499	2.5	1,465	2.5	19.3	18.2	18.6
9	9	Suicide	314	1.6	308	1.6	326	1.6	948	1.6	11.3	10.8	11.2
10	10	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	281	1.4	296	1.5	296	1.5	873	1.5	10.8	11.2	10.8
11	11	Essential (primary) hypertension & hypertensive renal disease	231	1.2	220	1.1	227	1.1	678	1.1	9.1	8.4	8.3
12	12	Parkinson's disease	155	0.8	174	0.9	206	1.0	535	0.9	6.0	6.6	7.6
13	not in top 15	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis	157	0.8	124	0.6	149	0.8	430	0.7	6.2	4.7	5.6
14	not in top 15	Homicide	97	0.5	96	0.5	136	0.7	329	0.6	3.3	3.2	4.3
15	14	Atherosclerosis	113	0.6	168	0.9	127	0.6	408	0.7	4.5	6.4	4.7
		All Other Causes	2,843	14.3	2,887	14.9	2,838	14.3	8,568	14.5	107.6	104.8	102.8
		<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	<b>19,871</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,864</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,091</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>774.8</b>	<b>733.6</b>	<b>731.2</b>

Rank ordered based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories.

\* Underlying cause of death.

All rates are per 100,000 population and are adjusted to 2000 Standard U.S. Population

Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Statistical Master Files; SANDAG January 1, population estimates

Prepared by Community Epidemiology, Health &amp; Human Services Agency, County of San Diego

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Table 2

**SUMMARY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH BY SEX, 2003**

Number and percent of deaths and age-adjusted rates by sex (and age-adjusted rates for San Diego County)

COUNTY RANK in 2003	CAUSE OF DEATH *	NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DEATHS				AGE-ADJUSTED RATES		
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE	SAN DIEGO COUNTY
		number of deaths	%	number of deaths	%			
1	Diseases of heart	2,742	27.7	2,625	26.4	245.3	161.7	198.8
2	Cancer (any)	2,400	24.3	2,315	23.2	207.4	154.7	176.4
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	620	6.3	901	9.0	56.1	55.5	56.3
4	COPD/Chronic lower respiratory diseases	466	4.7	601	6.0	42.0	38.2	39.8
5	Alzheimer's disease	327	3.3	677	6.8	31.3	39.9	36.9
6	Unintentional injuries	531	5.4	274	2.8	37.8	18.1	27.7
7	Influenza & pneumonia	258	2.6	321	3.2	23.5	19.4	21.3
8	Diabetes mellitus	264	2.7	235	2.4	22.8	15.4	18.6
9	Suicide	264	2.7	62	0.6	18.4	4.2	11.2
10	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	179	1.8	116	1.2	13.9	8.0	10.8
11	Essential (primary) hypertension & hypertensive renal disease	85	0.9	142	1.4	7.8	8.6	8.3
12	Parkinson's disease	124	1.3	82	0.8	11.4	5.0	7.6
13	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis	70	0.7	79	0.8	6.4	5.1	5.6
14	Homicide	102	1.0	33	0.3	6.3	2.2	4.3
15	Atherosclerosis	48	0.5	79	0.8	4.6	4.7	4.7
	All Other Causes	1,409	14.2	1,416	14.2	116.5	91.1	102.8
	<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	<b>9,889</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1703.1</b>	<b>1263.7</b>	<b>731.2</b>

Rank ordered based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories.

\* Underlying cause of death.

All rates are per 100,000 population by category (male, female, or total population) and are adjusted to 2000 Standard U.S. Population

Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Statistical Master Files; SANDAG January 1, population estimates

Prepared by Community Epidemiology, Health &amp; Human Services Agency, County of San Diego

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Table 3

**SUMMARY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2003**  
**Age-adjusted Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Total Population San Diego County Residents**

COUNTY RANK in 2003	CAUSE OF DEATH *	NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DEATH								AGE-ADJUSTED RATES				
		ASIAN/OTHER NON-HISPANIC		BLACK NON-HISPANIC		HISPANIC (ANY RACE)		WHITE NON-HISPANIC		RACE/ETHNICITY				SAN DIEGO COUNTY
		number of deaths	%	number of deaths	%	number of deaths	%	number of deaths	%	ASIAN/OTHER NON-HISPANIC	BLACK NON-HISPANIC	HISPANIC (ANY RACE)	WHITE NON-HISPANIC	
1	Diseases of heart	289	23.5	229	24.6	523	22.3	4,321	28.2	119.9	272.7	176.3	207.3	198.8
2	Cancer (any)	332	27.0	229	24.6	550	23.5	3,599	23.5	121.4	242.8	149.7	184.6	176.4
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	107	8.7	81	8.7	167	7.1	1,164	7.6	44.2	95.7	55.8	55.0	56.3
4	COPD/Chronic lower respiratory diseases	41	3.3	19	2.0	60	2.6	946	6.2	16.4	21.3	21.0	46.1	39.8
5	Alzheimer's disease	30	2.4	26	2.8	49	2.1	898	5.9	15.9	41.9	18.7	40.6	36.9
6	Unintentional injuries	64	5.2	48	5.2	153	6.5	539	3.5	19.6	33.4	24.0	30.7	27.7
7	Influenza & pneumonie	21	1.7	21	2.3	49	2.1	488	3.2	8.5	25.7	15.5	22.9	21.3
8	Diabetes mellitus	67	5.5	36	3.9	97	4.1	299	2.0	27.1	42.4	28.8	15.0	18.6
9	Suicide	21	1.7	10	1.1	41	1.8	253	1.7	5.0	6.0	6.1	14.8	11.2
10	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	8	0.7	8	0.9	63	2.7	216	1.4	2.7	7.0	13.8	11.9	10.8
11	Essential (primary) hypertension & hypertensive renal disease	20	1.6	10	1.1	16	0.7	181	1.2	9.4	13.4	6.0	8.4	8.3
12	Parkinson's disease	7	0.6	2	0.2	9	0.4	188	1.2	3.5	3.1	3.2	8.8	7.6
13	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis	12	1.0	8	0.9	26	1.1	103	0.7	4.9	9.6	7.7	5.0	5.6
14	Homicide	12	1.0	27	2.9	53	2.3	43	0.3	2.9	14.6	5.9	2.7	4.3
15	Atherosclerosis	10	0.8	4	0.4	11	0.5	102	0.7	4.9	5.9	4.4	4.7	4.7
	All Other Causes	188	15.3	173	18.6	474	20.2	1,986	13.0	68.2	155.4	106.8	102.1	102.8
	<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,326</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>474.3</b>	<b>991.0</b>	<b>643.8</b>	<b>760.7</b>	<b>731.2</b>

Rank ordered based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories. Top 15 based on rank in San Diego County in 2003.

\* Underlying cause of death.

\*\* Rate not calculated because number of deaths <5.

All rates are per 100,000 population in each race category, and are adjusted to 2000 Standard U.S. Population

Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Statistical Master Files; SANDAG January 1, population estimates

Prepared by Community Epidemiology, Health & Human Services Agency, County of San Diego

Prepared: 10/25/2005

Table 4

**LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH BY REGION, SAN DIEGO COUNTY 2003**  
**Number and Percent of Deaths Among Residents of San Diego County HHSA Regions**

COUNTY RANK IN 2003	CAUSE OF DEATH	REGION											
		N. Coastal		N. Central		Central		South		East		N. Inland	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1	Diseases of heart	907	29.0	901	26.1	758	25.7	714	28.6	1,090	29.1	929	24.7
2	Cancer (any)	742	23.8	908	26.3	661	22.4	605	24.3	873	23.3	880	23.4
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	228	7.3	256	7.4	222	7.5	190	7.6	288	7.7	317	8.4
4	COPD/Chronic lower respiratory diseases	202	6.5	179	5.2	119	4.0	121	4.9	206	5.5	231	6.1
5	Alzheimer's disease	188	6.0	190	5.5	119	4.0	73	2.9	174	4.6	253	6.7
6	Unintentional injuries	113	3.6	106	3.1	143	4.8	92	3.7	140	3.7	141	3.7
7	Influenza & pneumonia	77	2.5	118	3.4	78	2.6	58	2.3	102	2.7	142	3.8
8	Diabetes mellitus	73	2.3	62	1.8	96	3.3	87	3.5	88	2.4	88	2.3
9	Suicide	44	1.4	73	2.1	52	1.8	37	1.5	68	1.8	31	0.8
10	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	35	1.1	51	1.5	55	1.9	36	1.4	61	1.6	43	1.1
11	Essential (primary) hypertension & hypertensive renal disease	31	1.0	41	1.2	26	0.9	31	1.2	42	1.1	53	1.4
12	Parkinson's disease	46	1.5	49	1.4	12	0.4	17	0.7	26	0.7	56	1.5
13	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis	13	0.4	30	0.9	25	0.8	22	0.9	38	1.0	20	0.5
14	Homicide	12	0.4	11	0.3	47	1.6	23	0.9	22	0.6	13	0.3
15	Atherosclerosis	20	0.6	18	0.5	18	0.6	7	0.3	27	0.7	35	0.9
	All Other Causes	95	3.0	138	4.0	191	6.5	127	5.1	140	3.7	159	4.2
	<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,949</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,744</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Statistical Master Files; SANDAG January 1, population estimates

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